

DUXBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

TOWN CLERK
APPROVED
Approved Feb. 1, 2023 PM 12:43
DUXBURY, MASS.

Minutes: January 18, 2023

Present: Tag Carpenter, Chair, Ed Mayo, Vice-Chair, Andrew Burns, Michael Carlson, Arthur Evans, and Brendan Wall. Chris Andrew was absent.

Note: the numbering below is chronological and may not correspond to agenda item numbering.

The meeting was held remotely via Zoom. Mr. Carpenter called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM and confirmed that members present could be heard by calling for a roll call. He then read the following preamble:

“Pursuant to Governor Baker’s Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021 dated June 16, 2021, An Act Relative to Extending Certain Covid-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency regarding suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, as amended on July 15, 2022, the Town of Duxbury’s Board and/or Committee meetings will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible with members. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to watch the meeting may do so by following the ZOOM meeting links.”

The meeting was convened via Zoom video conference and recorded.

1. Open Forum. Nothing put forward.
2. Minutes. The Jan. 4, 2022, minutes were approved by a 5-0 vote (Mr. Evans joined the meeting after the vote).
3. Public Hearing, 265 Washington Street, the Henry Wadsworth II House, ca. 1853 (DUX.182), partial demolition/renovation. The Chair opened the hearing; owners Martha and Gardner Loring and one abutter participated. Discussion centered on modifications made to plans presented at the December 7 meeting for renovating the south wing of the house and were concerned with architectural details to improve the aesthetics of the wing rather than any major structural changes. Owners continue to work with the LHDC on the project. After a motion was made and seconded to close the hearing that passed 6-0, a motion was made and seconded that renovations proposed for the historic structure at 265 Washington St. were preservationist in nature and no demolition delay should be imposed. Passed 6-0.
4. New Demolition Delay Application.
 - a. 526 Washington Street, George C. Prior House, ca. 1851 (DUX.239)
Owners propose to add a master suite over an existing room. No demolition is involved other than cutting into the existing roof and connecting the roof lines. A walkaround had not been scheduled, and no representatives of the owners were present. After a brief discussion it was moved and seconded the proposed renovations of 526 Washington Street were minimal in nature and a demolition delay should not be imposed. Passed 6-0.
5. Preservation of the Isaac Simmons Farm at 761 Temple St.
The Harrington Working Group and Jonathan Mark of Waterfront Realtors have agreed that a second RFP for the sale of the property should be sent out mid-February with replies due within 30 days. The asking price has been reduced to \$425,000.

6. Revisions to the Commission's page on Town website.

The Chair will follow-up on this with Nancy O'Connor, Exec. Assistant to the Town Manager who maintains the website.

7. Preservation Grant Calendar.

Nothing new, although information continues to come in from various sources about available grants and funding sources. Mr. Mayo described a project in Watertown with which he is familiar with where a grant to renovate the headquarters of the Watertown Historical Society was received, but funding had to go through the Watertown CPC, underscoring the challenge communities have in processing grant money when it does become available.

8. CPA Preservation Grant Programs. No discussion.

9. LHDC Update. Met recently. Four properties will be presented at the ATM in March for approval as local historic districts including the Wright Building, the old high school (now the Duxbury Free Library), and the old fire station at Bluefish River.

10. CPC Update. Mr. Carpenter reported the CPC has restored some funds to be allocated for historic preservation.

11. Motion to Adjourn. Made and seconded at 7:42. Passed 6-0.

New Materials Received:

1. Historic Structure Demolition Application for 526 Washington Street dated January 9, 2023.

Minutes Prepared and Submitted by Arthur B. Evans, Clerk